

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 OECD P 10418 01 OF 04 241250Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 OECD PARIS 10418

ATHENS PASS TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, OECD, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING MAY 28-29

SUMMARY. THE SECRETARY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE EVE OF THE NATO SUMMIT AFFORDS A TIMELY OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW THE COMMITMENT OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN THE ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND TO WORK TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OF A COHERENT STRATEGY ON OVERALL RELATIONS WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE MISSION OFFERS ITS COMMENTS AND  
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PAGE 02 OECD P 10418 01 OF 04 241250Z

SUGGESTIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SETTING AND US OBJEC-

TIVES FOR THE MEETING, RELATING THESE TO DEVELOPMENTS TO DATE ON THE AGENDA, SCENARIO AND CHAIRMANSHIP.

1. THE SETTING:

THE OECD MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING TO BE ATTENDED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER (FIRST DAY) AND POSSIBLY BY SECRETARY SIMON WILL TAKE PLACE ON MAY 28-29. IT WILL PRECEDE AND PARTIALLY OVERLAP WITH THE SUMMIT MEETING AT NATO WHICH BEGINS MAY 29. THE MEETING FOLLOWS BY A DAY THE FIRST MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY WHICH WILL MAP OUT A CONSUMER COUNTRY STRATEGY ON ENERGY IN THE WAKE OF THE FAILURE OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (SEE SEPTTEL). TOGETHER THE TWO MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN PARIS WILL TAKE UP ALL THE OUTSTANDING ECONOMIC ISSUES WHICH SO VITALLY AFFECT THE COHESIVENESS OF THE ALLIANCE AND THEIR RESULTS AND COMMUNIQUE WILL PROVIDE A VALUABLE INPUT FOR THE DISCUSSION AT THE SUMMIT.

2. THE OECD MINISTERIAL COMES AT A TIME WHEN THE KEY INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES ARE EITHER BEGINNING TO EMERGE FROM PROLONGED RECESSION OR APPROACHING THE BOTTOM OF THE TROUGH, WITH INFLATION STILL A MAJOR PROBLEM. THE DURATION, INTENSITY AND VAGARIES OF THE INFLATION/RECESSION EXPERIENCE HAVE LED TO AN EROSION OF PUBLIC CONFIDENCE ABOUT THE CAPACITY OF GOVERNMENTS TO MANAGE THEIR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND ABOUT THE EFFICACY OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. WHILE THE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS OF OIL SURPLUSES HAVE SO FAR PROVEN MANAGEABLE, THE IMPACT OF THE OIL PRICE RISE ON OECD ECONOMIES HAS COMPLICATED THE RECOVERY PROCESS AND LED TO PRESSURE IN SOME OF THE WEAKER COUNTRIES FOR BEGGAR-THY-NEIGHBOR POLICIES. FEARS THAT OPEC MIGHT IMPOSE FURTHER SUDDEN INCREASES IN OIL IMPORT COSTS AND THAT THE ECONOMIC UPTURN MIGHT LEAD TO RENEWED INFLATIONARY PRESSURES ADD TO THE CONFIDENCE PROBLEM. THE SITUATION REQUIRES A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION BY THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIALIZED POWERS, IN THE CONTEXT OF A CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 OECD P 10418 01 OF 04 241250Z

CONFIDENCE-BUILDING ANALYSIS OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, THE RECENT FAILURE OF THE ENERGY PREPARATORY CONFERENCE, STEMMING FROM THE INSISTENCE OF THE ALGERIAN-LED OPEC/LDC BLOC TO BROADEN THE AGENDA TO COVER THE MAIN POINTS OF THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER, HAS UNDERLINED THE NEED TO DEVELOP A COHERENT STRATEGY ON

OVERALL RELATIONS WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SUCH  
A STRATEGY MUST DEAL WITH THE COMMODITIES ISSUE BUT ALSO  
WITH THE SUBSTANCE AND PROCEDURE OF THE OTHER RADICAL  
DEMANDS OF THE LDCS.

4. OBJECTIVES:

WE THEREFORE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT IN TERMS OF THE  
BROADER FOREIGN POLICY INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES  
TODAY IN RENEWING CONFIDENCE IN THE INTERNATIONAL STRUC-  
TURE OF COOPERATION AND COMMITMENT THAT THE FORTHCOMING  
OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING

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PAGE 01 OECD P 10418 02 OF 04 241255Z

42

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INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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--REVIVE CONFIDENCE IN COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AMONG THE OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES;

-- SET IN MOTION THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COHERENT STRATEGY ON ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH WILL DEAL WITH THE INCREASINGLY RADICAL TREND IN NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONSHIPS.

5. SPECIFICALLY, WE SEE THE FOLLOWING RESULTS WHICH THE MINISTERIAL MEETING MIGHT ACCOMPLISH IN FURTHERANCE OF THESE OBJECTIVES:  
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PAGE 02 OECD P 10418 02 OF 04 241255Z

MINIMALLY, THE MINISTERIAL MEETING MIGHT:

-- SPOTLIGHT NATIONAL POLICY MEASURES WHICH ARE BEING TAKEN TO EXPAND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT WHILE CONTINUING TO TAPER OFF INFLATION; (THE RESULTS OF THE EPC MEETING OF MARCH 5-6, WP-III OF MAY 14-15 AND THE OECD FINANCE MINISTERS' DISCUSSION OF APRIL 9 FORM THE BASIC BACKGROUND FOR THIS CONCLUSION.)

-- URGE EARLY RATIFICATION OF OECD FINANCIAL SAFETY NET AND REITERATE COMMITMENT TO FINANCIAL SOLIDARITY.

-- RENEW TRADE PLEDGE (SEE USOECD 06541 AND 10281) AND (IN THIS CONNECTION)

-- RECORD IN SOME APPROPRIATE MANNER THE INTENTION OF THE COUNTRIES IN A STRONG ECONOMIC POSITION (READ FRG) TO TAKE THE LEAD IN REFLATING THEIR ECONOMIES.

-- TAKE NOTE OF AND GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO XCSS EXAMINATION OF COMMODITY ISSUES (SEE USOECD 06533).

6. POSSIBLY, (IF USG IS ABLE TO GET ACROSS ITS POSITIONS BOTH BILATERALLY AND IN APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES BETWEEN NOW AND MAY 28) THE MINISTERIAL MEETING MIGHT ALSO RECORD:

-- A DECLARATION OF INTENT BY OECD TO DEAL WITH COMMODITY PROBLEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CERTAIN PRINCIPLES TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON THIS BY THE

TIME OF THE MINISTERIAL, USG EFFORTS MUST BE EFFECTIVELY FOCUSED ON THE APRIL 30 TRADE COMMITTEE MEETING AND ON THE MAY 6-7 XCSS MEETING, POSSIBLY RECONVENING AN AD HOC GROUP ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS, AND PERHAPS HOLDING ANOTHER XCSS MEETING ON OR ABOUT MAY 23 TO REACH AGREEMENT BEFORE THE MAY 28 MEETING.

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PAGE 03 OECD P 10418 02 OF 04 241255Z

-- A DECLARATION OF INTENT RE FURTHER PROGRESS ON INVESTMENT ISSUES, INCLUDING BOTH GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES AND STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR FOR MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES. TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT BY THE TIME OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING, EFFORTS MUST BE FOCUSED ON THE APRIL 28-29 MEETING OF THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE AND A POSSIBLE PRE-MINISTERIAL XCSS MEETING.

-- THE SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHING OF A POLICY-ORIENTED LONGER TERM RESEARCH CENTER WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE OECD AS PROPOSED BY THE JAPANESE (SEE USOECD 10012).

7. MORE AMBITIOUSLY, THE OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING MIGHT BE USED BY THE SECRETARY TO LAUNCH AN INITIATIVE IN OECD INVOLVING EITHER OR BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING:

-- MORE STRUCTURED CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN OECD ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AMONG INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES ACROSS A VARIETY OF SUBSTANTIVE FIELDS.

-- THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON INTEGRATED APPROACH TO ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

8. CONSULTATIVE PROCESS. AT THE PRESENT TIME THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS IS FRAGMENTED AMONG MANY COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES, EACH WITH A PRINCIPAL CONSTITUENT IN

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PAGE 01 OECD P 10418 03 OF 04 241257Z

42

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 04 OECD PARIS 10418

CAPITALS. THE XCSS, WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED TO EXERCISE THE INTEGRATIVE COORDINATING ROLE, HAS NOT DONE SO. IN PURSUIT OF THE CONFIDENCE-BUILDING OBJECTIVE OF THE OECD, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO INITIATE AN EXAMINATION OF WAYS AND MEANS TO IMPROVE THE CONSULTATION PROCESS ON A WHOLE RANGE OF INTERRELATED ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. AMONG TECHNIQUES THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED ARE:

-- REINVIGORATING XCSS BY SEEKING HIGH-LEVEL INTER-  
-DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATION FROM THE MAJOR COUN-  
TRIES TO ENABLE OVERALL STOCK-TAKING AND DEVELOPING  
COMMON APPROACHES TO INTERDISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS;  
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PAGE 02 OECD P 10418 03 OF 04 241257Z

-- COMPILING AND ANALYZING THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF  
ALL RULES, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING  
ECONOMIC RELATIONS AMONG OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES WHICH MIGHT  
SERVE AS A BASIS FOR INFORMAL CODE OF ECONOMIC GOOD CON-  
DUCT FOR THE OECD AREA;

-- ENCOURAGING THE OECD SECRETARIAT TO ORGANIZE ITSELF TO SUPPORT SUCH XCSS WORK VIA MULTIDISCIPLINARY TASK FORCES WITH EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP.

9. RELATIONS WITH LDC'S. THE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE OF THE OECD IS THE PRINCIPAL FORUM FOR CONSULTATION AMONG THE MAJOR INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES ON THEIR AID POLICIES. IN ADDITION, A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF OECD WORKED OUT THE GENERALIZED PREFERENCE SCHEME AND THE XCSS IS NOW TAKING UP THE COMMODITY PROBLEM. THE OECD HAS ALSO BEEN USED ON AN AD HOC BASIS AS A LOCUS FOR CAUCUSING AMONG THE MAJOR INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES ON VARIOUS UNITED NATIONS ISSUES. AGAIN BECAUSE OF BUREAUCRATIC FRAGMENTATION WITHIN MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, EFFORTS TO BEGIN TO DEVELOP AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO LDC RELATIONS HAVE NOT YET BEEN PRODUCTIVE. THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER PROVIDES THE LDC'S WITH A RADICAL ALL-INCLUSIVE APPROACH TO NORTH-SOUTH PROBLEMS WHICH REQUIRES THAT THE OECD COUNTRIES DEVELOP A CONSTRUCTIVE CONCEPTUAL APPROACH OF THEIR OWN EMBRACING ALL STRANDS OF POLICY.

10. A US INITIATIVE IN THE TWO FIELDS OF IMPROVING CONSULTATION AMONG OECD COUNTRIES AND DEVELOPING A STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH LDCS COULD LAY OUT THE PROBLEM, SUGGEST TENTATIVE APPROACHES AND PROPOSE THE SETTING UP OF TWO WORKING PARTIES TO DEVELOP THE CONCEPTS AND REPORT TO XCSS, A BODY WHICH BY VIRTUE OF ITS POTENTIAL HIGH-LEVEL INTERMINISTERIAL REPRESENTATION SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE COMPLEX INTERRELATIONSHIPS INVOLVED.

11. AGENDA/SCENARIO:  
HEADS OF DELEGATION ARE EXPECTED ON APRIL 29 TO AGREE UPON AGENDA ALONG LINES OF SECRETARIAT DRAFT TRANSMITTED  
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PAGE 03 OECD P 10418 03 OF 04 241257Z

USOECD 10022. CALLAGHAN, WHO WILL ALSO ATTEND IEA MINISTERIAL, WILL CHAIR THE MEETING THE FIRST DAY AND HOST A DINNER FOR MINISTERS ON MAY 27. SECRETARY GENERAL WILL HOST LUNCHEON FOR MINISTERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS ON THE 28TH. AGENDA HAS BEEN SET UP IN SUCH A WAY THAT MINISTERS MAY REFER TO ALL SUB-ITEMS OF AGENDA ITEM 1 IN SINGLE INTERVENTION. ITEM 1 "POLICIES OF OECD COUNTRIES IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CONTEXT" IS WORDED BROADLY ENOUGH TO ENCOMPASS ALL OUR OBJECTIVES AND THE SUB-ITEMS UNDER ITEM 1, I.E., "COMMODITIES, RELATIONS WITH

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PAGE 01 OECD P 10418 04 OF 04 241316Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 04 OECD PARIS 10418

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ENERGY, TRADE AND FINANCING  
QUESTIONS," ARE ONLY ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE  
SPECIFIC ISSUES TO BE TOUCHED UPON. THE SECRETARY MAY  
THUS ADDRESS ANY OR ALL OF THE POINTS OUTLINED ABOVE  
IN AN INTEGRATED STATEMENT AND THE OTHER COUNTRIES  
ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS STATEMENT WITH CONSIDERABLE  
INTEREST. ESPECIALLY IF SECRETARY WILL MAKE SPECIFIC  
PROGRAM PROPOSALS, HE SHOULD SPEAK EARLY IN SESSION.  
BRITISH CONTINUE TO WANT TO DEAL WITH TRADE PLEDGE ON  
SECOND DAY BUT WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR DISCUSSION  
ON FIRST DAY WHEN FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL BE PRESENT,  
PARTICULARLY SINCE COMMUNIQUE DRAFTING GROUP WILL, AS  
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PAGE 02 OECD P 10418 04 OF 04 241316Z

CUSTOMARY, BEGIN WORK DURING EVENING OF FIRST DAY. FIRST DAY'S SESSION WILL END AROUND 6:00 P.M., AND SECRETARY WILL BE FREE TO ATTEND QUADRIpartite DINNER, WHICH MAY BE HELD IN PARIS.

12. SECOND DAY WILL BE DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO DISCUSSION AMONG FINANCE AND ECONOMICS MINISTERS. WHETHER HEALEY OR SOME OTHER BRITISH MINISTER WILL CHAIR THIS SESSION HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED. WE ASSUME THAT IF SECRETARY SIMON IS PRESENT, HEALEY WILL MOST LIKELY CHAIR. AGENDA ITEM II "ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PROSPECTS AND POLICIES OF OECD COUNTRIES," IS MEANT TO ENCOURAGE US AND OTHER DELEGATIONS TO MAKE MORE SPECIFIC POINTS ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND OUTLOOK FOR INFLATION AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY CONDITIONS ON SECOND DAY. SINCE THIS DISCUSSION WILL PLAY A KEY ROLE IN CONFIDENCE-BUILDING EFFORT, WE CONSIDER IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT SECRETARY SIMON AND CHAIRMAN GREENSPAN BE PRESENT TO SPEAK FOR US. TURNER

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